

- means for continuously recording the inflation pressure and the force applied.

Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected as obvious over DeGhetto in view of Ohms. DeGhetto (U.S. 3,662,597) discloses a tire testing machine capable of performing two different types of tests, i.e., a bead unseating test (wherein a shoe 76 exerts pressure against the tire's sidewall as shown in Figs. 1 and 2), and a strength test (wherein a plunger 115 exerts pressure against the tire's tread as shown in Fig. 6). The bead unseating test is described from column 3, line 65 to column 4, line 21. The strength test is described at column 4, lines 23-57.

It will be appreciated with regard to present claim 1, that DeGhetto's machine applies a force to the tire in each of the two different types of tests. However, the force is not transmitted to the tread of the tire during the bead unseating test. In that regard, it is stated at column 2, lines 65-68 that:

[a] special crescent-shaped tire unseating block or shoe 76 is mounted on the underside of the guide arm 75 for applying pressure to the sidewall of the tire 48 during the bead unseating test.

To conduct a strength test, the shoe 76 is replaced by a plunger 115 (Fig. 6), and DeGhetto discloses that

In conducting the strength test with the plunger 56, the guide arm 75 and connecting link 67 are removed from the adapter 66 and replaced with the plunger 115.

* * *

To test the tire 48, hydraulic fluid under pressure is introduced into the upper part of cylinder 58 forcing the plunger 115 down into contact with the tread of the tire 48 and as the plunger descends into the tire the pressure in pounds per square inch is indicated by the pressure gauge 110.

* * *

If the tire 48 breaks, the recorder graph plots both the force at which the brake occurs and the distance the plunger 115 entered the tire.
(DeGhetto, at column 4, lines 23-26)

It will be appreciated that the portion of DeGhetto that was referred to in the Official action, i.e., column 4, lines 35-42, describes the strength test depicted in Fig. 6, not a bead-unseating test as recited in present claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-16 distinguish patentably over DeGhetto.

Likewise, claim 17 recites a machine for a tire unseating test which comprises a test surface for transmitting a test force to at least a portion of a tire tread, and means for detecting a moment of unseating. DeGhetto does not disclose such a combination of elements, as explained above, so it is submitted that claim 17 and dependent claims 18-20 distinguish patentably over DeGhetto.

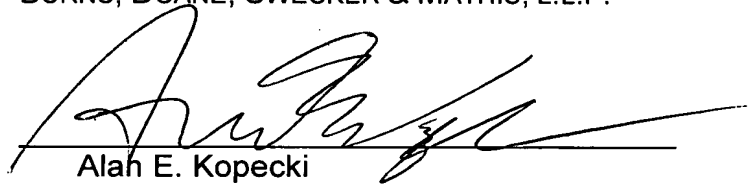
Ohms (U.S. 5,040,413) discloses an apparatus capable of measuring simultaneously: (a) fluctuations of the forces exerted by a tire on a test surface against which the tire is rolling, and (b) fluctuations of the tire inflation pressure. An algorithm is provided to correct the force values accordingly, which allows more reliable tire uniformity data to be obtained. Bead unseating is not disclosed, and so there is no obvious combination of DeGhetto and Ohms which would result in the presently claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in
condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan E. Kopecki', is written over a horizontal line.

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